



MEDIA ADVISORY

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NEELY'S BEND ROAD SLATED FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Neely's Bend Road in the Madison area will be upgraded to improve safety and overall traffic movement, Mayor Bill Purcell and Council Member Jim Forkum said today.

"Councilman Forkum asked the Public Works Department how we could improve the traffic and intersections along Neely's Bend road to handle the estimated average 12,000 vehicles that travel this road each day," Purcell said. "This project will improve four key intersections and add at least two traffic signals."

The four locations identified for safety improvements are located within the first two miles of Neely's Bend Road from where it begins at Gallatin Road. The improvements at all four locations will likely be constructed simultaneously under one contract, according to Metro officials.

The intersections to be improved are Forest Park Road, Randy Road, Larkin Springs Road and the combined Idlewild Avenue/Madison Boulevard. Turn lanes and sidewalks will be added at each intersection, and at least two of the four locations (Idlewild/Madison and Larkin Springs) will receive traffic signals. A third intersection, Randy Road, is also being considered for a traffic signal.

"We have been working closely with members of the Neely's Bend community and Council Member Jim Forkum on their concerns about this roadway, and now we are ready to move forward with these improvements, which we believe will help increase traffic control for drivers and the residents," said Public Works Director Billy Lynch.

Metro traffic engineers began investigating options for safety improvements following a series of traffic incidents, some of which resulted in fatalities. Having identified specific

improvement plans, Public Works will now begin work to finalize design, right-of-way and construction schedules, said Lynch.

“It’s too early to determine a definite start date for the actual construction, but we will immediately start working to implement all the pre-construction phases, including identifying and acquiring all the additional property needed to improve the four intersections,” Lynch added.

Once the required right-of-way has been purchased, Metro can proceed with construction, which is estimated to take approximately 8 to 10 months to complete.

Neely’s Bend Road is a narrow, two-lane roadway extending six miles from Gallatin Road to the Neely’s Bend area of the Cumberland River in northeast Davidson County. Over the years, the roadway section leading into the river bend area has remained mostly rural and sparsely populated, but areas of the route closer to Gallatin Road have experienced increased, and mostly residential, development, resulting in higher and higher traffic volumes.

Metro estimates an average of 12,000 vehicles daily travel the section of Neely’s Bend Road where the intersection improvements are planned.

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